

Remarks:

This amendment is submitted in an earnest effort to advance this case to issue without delay.

The priority papers were filed with the original application papers and their receipt was acknowledged in the above-mentioned Examiner's Action. The undersigned hereby reiterates the priority claim made in the earlier-filed Declaration.

The specification has been amended to eliminate some minor obvious errors. No new matter whatsoever has been added. Similarly the Abstract has been redone to comply with US Rules.

The claims have been replaced with a set of US-style claims.

New broadest claim 18 describes a toaster 1 comprising:

a housing 2, 4 having an upper load opening 7 and a lower discharge opening 18, defining therebetween an internal cooking chamber 10 adapted to hold an object to be toasted, and forming a passage 11 extending between the openings 7 and 18, around the cooking chamber 10, and along inside surfaces of outside walls 31 of the housing 2, 4;

heat radiating elements 3 in the cooking chamber 10 positioned to radiantly heat and toast the object therein; and

cooling means including a fan 6 in the housing 2, 4 below the cooking chamber 10 for drawing outside air into the housing 2, 4 through the load opening 7, passing it downward through the passage 11 around the cooking chamber 10, and expelling it from the housing 2, 4 via the discharge opening 18.

New independent claim 29 includes all the limitations of new claim 18, also describes the unreferenced partition in the housing 2 that defines the outside of the cooking chamber 10 and inside of the passage 11, and describes how the fan 6 also draws air downward out of the chamber 10 to mix it with the air stream 8 from the opening 7 and expel it through the discharge 18.

The system of this invention ensures that the entire toaster housing will remain relatively cool. The forced-air ventilation keeps the outside surfaces virtually at room temperature and also ensures that enough air is moved that the air expelled from the toaster is not dangerously hot.

Both of the two applied references - US 5,126,534 of Kwong and 6,105,486 of Belknap - show standard convectively cooled toasters. Neither has a fan. In addition in both of them the discharge is at the top. In Kwong the discharge is central and within the intake, and in Belknap the load slots are the discharge

and the intake is slots in the lower regions of the ends. Thus in both of these references a relatively inefficient convection process is used instead of a fan and in both of them the air flow is different from that defined in claims 18 and 29. No rejection of these claims on these references is possible either singly under §102 or jointly under §103.

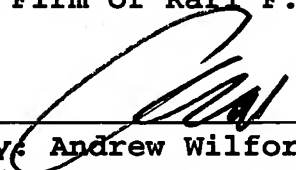
Of the other art of record (see the recently filed Information Disclosure Statement) the most relevant would be the essentially identical US patents 4,386,558 and 4,534,987 of Holman. Both show a toaster oven provided with forced-air circulation. Here the air is drawn in as shown in FIG. 2 through the floor, passed up the rear, and driven downward over the heaters 26. This is clearly an altogether different system from that of the instant invention. There is no upper load slot and no downward flow around the cooking chamber. Thus these references add nothing to the teachings of Kwong and Belknap that could form a valid §103 rejection.

Thus all of the claims in the case are clearly in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If only minor problems that could be corrected by means of a telephone conference stand in the way of allowance of this

case, the examiner is invited to call the undersigned to make the necessary corrections.

Respectfully submitted,
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Enclosure: Substitute Abstract
 Corrected version of original Specification
 Substitute Specification